

APPROVED  
3-11-15 CD

Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2015  
Kalamazoo County Veterans' Affairs Committee

- I. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Michael Quinn at 8:14 a.m.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Members Present: Michael Quinn, Michael Jones, Bill Becker, Michael Seals
  - b. Members Absent: Audree Morrison
  - c. Others Present: Aaron Edlefson, John Faul, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Beth Ridge, Don Jarzambek, Courtney Davis
- III. Review of previous month's meeting minutes  
Motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from January 6, 2015 as presented.  
Seconded.  
Carried.
- IV. Citizen's Time  
Chairperson Michael Quinn opened the floor for sharing. No comments, questions or issues were brought forward. Citizen's time was closed.
- V. Old Business  
Updates were provided as to the status of filling the Veterans Service Specialist Position. Position has been posted, 5 applicants meet the minimum qualifications and will be scheduled for interviews. Two committee members will sit on the interview panel. Second interviews will include a presentation to the committee so that all members may be present. Tentatively planning on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March for presentations. Discussion followed as to important interview questions and to the process for hiring being that the prosecutor's final decision has yet to be made on the predecessor to the Veterans Service Coordinator position. Committee will send a letter to the Prosecutor by way of Chairperson, Mr. Michael Quinn to check on the decision timeline.
- VI. Financial Review  
Review of all Service Office assistance programs by Interim Coordination, Aaron Edlefson. Discussion of trends and use of services ensued. Gas cards have not been utilized to a large degree; Burial benefits are the highest they have been in many months – which is not uncommon to the beginning of the year.  
  
Overall Veterans Service Office financial report was reviewed by Financial Analyst Ms. Beth Ridge. This was a draft year end for 2014. The final will be complete sometime in March.

VII. New Business

Email received by County Administration was shared with committee members "Concerned Citizen Letter." Individual shared concern for the need of more support for area Veterans. VAC Chairperson to send a letter to the individual to share about programs available and offer additional support information along with meeting times of committee and the Board of Commissioners.

Drug Court Project will be on an upcoming Veterans Affairs Committee Agenda as Committee member Morrison was not in attendance. Brief discussion of members present followed. Both Van Buren and Allegan operate Veterans Drug Courts. Kalamazoo have a few venues to intercept veterans within the court system, but Commissioner Seals and County Administration will identify contacts and resources available to Kalamazoo veterans and share with the committee at an upcoming meeting.

Committee Bylaws. Brief discussion about upcoming need to review bylaws and look at areas for needed updates. Specifically with meeting times and committee member attendance requirements.

VIII. Other

Meeting schedule for 2015 was distributed and reviewed

Citizen's comments were shared. Veterans Service Office has historically been a place of last resort for Veterans. Asked if Veterans were referred to other community resources for assistance as well (e.g. Salvation Army)

Interim Coordinator, Aaron Edlefson shared gratitude for the assistance that the department reception and administrative support staff of provided for the office and veterans. Suggested that future training be provided for these staff to have more VSO knowledge for client assistance.

IX. Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Michael Quinn at 9:08 a.m.